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IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 JAN 2006

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Dated: January 27, 2006

Signature:   
(Danielle L. Herritt)

Docket No.: HEU-004US  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Antonio Giangrasso

Application No.: National Phase of  
PCT/EP2004/008401

Confirmation N/A

U.S. Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

I.A. Filing Date: July 27, 2005

For: USE OF INERT, POROUS MATERIALS IN  
ORDER TO REDUCE THE SALT CONTENT  
IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS, AND METHOD  
AND DEVICE THEREFOR

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

### FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.